Sector	Annual growth percent	
	1983 to 1993-94	1993-94 to 1999-2000
Agriculture	2.23	0.02
Industry		
Mining & quarrying	3.68	-1.91
Manufacturing	2.36	2.58
Electricity, gas and water supply	5.31	-3.55
Construction	4.18	5.21
Services		
Trade, hotels and restaurant	3.80	5.72
Transport, storage & communications	3.35	5.53
Financial, insurance, real estate & business services	4.60	5.40
community, social & personal services	3.85	-2.08
All Sectors	2.67	1.07

Source: Economic Survey 2002-03.

Loans to farm sector

1475. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on issue of extending loans to farm sector for buying tractors, power tillers and other farm implements on same terms and conditions for motor vehicles in urban area;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering to reduce rate of interest of loans for this purpose;

(c) whether the Ministry has decided to launch farmers income insurance policy which would benefit farmers who are compelled to sell their produce in distress;

(d) the States in which this scheme will be in operation; and

(e) if so, to what extent this insurance scheme of farmers have been welcomed by all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has entered into a tie-up with M/s. Tractors and Farm Equipments Manufacturers Ltd., M/s. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., M/s. Escorts Ltd. and some others, to obtain maximum possible discount in tractors and other agricultural equipments with a view to pass on the benefit to farmers taking loans for purchase of tractors, etc. Subsequently, Indian Banks Association (IBA) advised its member banks to make such tie-up with farm equipment manufactures so that the farmers would be able to purchase the same at discounted price against loans sanctioned by banks.

(c) to (e) Government has formulated a pilot project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) as a modified version of the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). The objective of the Pilot Project is:

- To Provide financial support to farmers, in the event of loss in income from adverse incidence of Crop Yield (on account of natural calamities, pests and diseases) and/or Market Price Fluctuations;
- to encourage the farmers to adopt prudent and progressive farming practices, both in terms of agricultural technology, and market economics;
- To enhance food and livelihood security of the farming community;
- To help stabilize farm incomes; particularly in disaster years.

To scheme is to be implemented soon on an experimental basis through a pilot project in certain specified districts of 16 states in the country, *viz.* Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, during the Rabi Season of 2003-04.

New CNG pumps

1476. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the CNG price in future; and

(b) the details of new CNG Pumps proposed to be set up in the country during the next year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) CNG prices are linked to natural gas prices which are envisaged to be fully market related in future.

(b) There are a number of companies, both in public sector and private sector, who are engaged in City Gas Distribution Projects in different States. Number of CNG stations that would be set up in a phased manner would depend upon the number of vehicles that may convert to CNG.

Ethanol blending in Uttar Pradesh

1477. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, which is a sugarcane producing State, having large number of sugar mills, has been given license for ethanol blending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when, it is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The